

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
Olympia, Washington**

**To:** Indian Health Service Providers  
Tribal Health Clinic Providers  
Managed Care Organizations

**Memorandum No: 06-79**  
**Issued:** October 1, 2006

**From:** Douglas Porter, Assistant Secretary  
Health and Recovery Services  
Administration (HRSA)

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**Subject: Tribal Health Program: Encounter Rate Increase**

This memorandum informs Indian Health Services (IHS) and Tribal Health Clinic providers of an increase in the IHS encounter rate **retroactive for claims with dates of service on and after January 1, 2006.**

## **What has changed?**

**Retroactive for claims with dates of service on and after January 1, 2006,** the IHS encounter rate was increased from \$223.00 per encounter to \$242.00 per encounter. (A copy of the Federal Register is attached.)

Effective immediately, please use the new IHS encounter rate of \$242.00 when billing for Medicaid-covered services provided on and after January 1, 2006.

## **Rebilling**

**Do not rebill claims that HRSA has already paid.** By November 1, 2006, HRSA will process a one-time mass adjustment to pay providers the difference between the old and the new encounter rate. This adjustment will affect claims for dates of service through August 31, 2006, which were finalized and paid at the old billed rate of \$223.00. After HRSA finalizes the mass adjustment, providers must adjust any claims not identified in the adjustment process to receive the higher payment.

## **How do I conduct business electronically with HRSA?**

You may conduct business electronically with HRSA by accessing the WAMedWeb at <http://wamedweb.acs-inc.com>.

## How can I get HRSA's provider documents?

To obtain DSHS/HRSA provider numbered memoranda and billing instruction, go to the DSHS/HRSA website at <http://hrsa.dshs.wa.gov> (click *the Billing Instructions and Numbered Memorandum* link). These may be downloaded and printed.